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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06922 131610Z

44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEAE-00 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 PM-04 INR-07 /049 W
---------- 117210
P 131402Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1504

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6922

STADIS//////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, LE, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONTACT WITH LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI PHARAON CALLED UNEXPECTEDLY ON CHARGE MORNING OF AUG 13 FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A COURTESY CALL. AFTER GENERAL DISCUSSION, PHARAON MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN EAST BEIRUT THIS MORNING AND HAD BROUGHT BACK SOME VERY CONFIDENTIAL NEWS WHICH HE FELT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO USG.

2. PHARAON EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY IN EAST BEIRUT HAD RECENTLY COMPLAINED BITTERLY TO MOSCOW THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV HAD NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CHRISTIAN OFFICIALS FOR SOME MONTHS AND THAT USSR'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF LEFTIST ELEMENTS COULD ONLY BE TAKEN AS ANTI-CHRISTIAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE SITUATION. PHARAON STATED THAT HE LEARNED THIS MORNING THAT MOSCOW HAD RESPONDED TO EFFECT THAT THEY WERE MOST INTERESTED IN FINDING AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS AND THAT IN FUTURE THEY DID NOT INTEND TO SUPPORT THE REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS IN WEST BEIRUT.

3. WHILE IT WAS NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR, PHARAON STRONGLY INTIMATED THAT HE HAD SEEN THIS COMMUNICATION WHICH HAD BEEN SENT DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW, AND HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV HAD NOT BEEN
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INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGE. IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT

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PHARAON HAD MADE HIS CALL AT THE EMBASSY DIRECTLY
AFTER RETURNING FROM EAST BEIRUT IN ORDER TO PASS
THIS INFORMATION TO US.
HUNT

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NNN

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